

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OTEA, WA, SF, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NAMIBIAN GROUP

REF: STATE 232495 (NOTAL)

1. POSTS SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE IF
ASKED ABOUT CURRENT VISIT TO US OF 30 NAMIBIAN DELEGATES
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TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE OR ABOUT USG POSITION ON

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AT OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL AND BELOW MET WITH NAMIBIAN GROUP ON OCT. 7

FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. NO NEW ELEMENTS EMERGED.

2. QUESTION: WE UNDERSTAND THAT A GROUP OF NAMIBIANS IS VISITING THE UNITED STATES? WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT?

RESPONSE: ABOUT 30 NAMIBIANS ARE VISITING THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. SOME OF THESE NAMIBIANS ARE LEADERS OF VARIOUS ETHNIC AND TRIBAL GROUP DELEGATIONS TO A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN NAMIBIA TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY. THE CONFERENCE IS PRESENTLY IN RECESS, AND THESE NAMIBIANS ARE MAKING THE

VISIT TO INFORM THEMSELVES ABOUT THE UNITED STATES.

3. QUESTION: WILL THE STATE DEPARTMENT BE RECEIVING THEM?

RESPONSE: YES. A MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FOR OCTOBER 7. THE DEPARTMENT HAS A POLICY OF SEEING ALL NAMIBIANS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL PERSUASION. FOR EXAMPLE, WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE RECEIVED THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO), SAM NUJOMA, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA NATIONAL UNION (SWANU), GERSON VEII. WE ARE RECEIVING THE NAMIBIANS IN THIS GROUP IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES. RECEIVING THESE NAMIBIANS DOES NOT IMPLY IN ANY WAY U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RIGHT TO ADMINISTER NAMIBIA.

4. QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT POSITION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND THE DECLARATION OF INTENT ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE?

RESPONSE: THE UNITED STATES' POSITION TOWARD THE CONFERENCE AND ITS DECLARATION OF INTENT DERIVES FROM ITS BASIC POSITION REGARDING NAMIBIA. WE CONSIDER THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN NAMIBIA TO BE ILLEGAL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WE HAVE CALLED UPON SOUTH AFRICA TO REMOVE ITS ADMINISTRATION FROM THE TERRITORY. WE PARTICULARLY

DEPLORE THE APPLICATION OF APARTHEID POLICIES TO NAMIBIA; OUR POSITION IS REFLECTED IN OUR SUPPORT FOR UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2145 OF OCTOBER 1966 WHICH TERMIN-

ATED SOUTH AFRICA'S LEAGUE OF NATIONS MANDATE OVER NAMIBIA

AND PLACED NAMIBIA UNDER THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE ALSO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1971 ADVISORY OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE REGARDING NAMIBIA WHICH UPHELD THE TERMINATION OF THE MANDATE, CALLED UPON SOUTH AFRICA TO REMOVE IMMEDIATELY ITS ADMINISTRATION FROM THE TERRITORY, AND CALLED UPON STATES TO TAKE NO ACTIONS IMPLYING RECOGNITION OF THE LEGALITY OF OR LENDING SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S PRESENCE IN AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY.

THE UNITED STATES FAVORS A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNMENT OUR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA WHICH ARE THAT: A) ALL NAMIBIANS SHOULD, WITHIN A SHORT TIME, BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY AND

UNDER UN SUPERVISION ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE AND CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE TERRITORY; B) ALL NAMIBIAN POLITICAL GROUPS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT HINDRANCE IN PEACEFUL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE COURSE OF THE PROCESS OF SELF-DETERMINATION, AND C) THE TERRITORY SHOULD NOT BE SPLIT UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH APARTHEID POLICY.

AT THIS STAGE WE DO NOT REGARD THE CONFERENCE OR ITS DECLARATION AS REPRESENTING THE VIEWS OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE NAMIBIAN POPULATION SINCE CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL GROUPS, SUCH AS SWAPO AND THE NAMIBIA NATIONAL CONVENTION, ARE NOT REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE. WE ALSO NOTE WITH CONCERN THAT THE CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF REPRESSION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY ILLUSTRATED BY THE RECENT DETENTION OF AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF NAMIBIANS UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT

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AND OTHER ILLEGAL AND REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION. REGARDING THE DECLARATION, WE HOPE THAT CERTAIN LANGUAGE WITHIN THE DECLARATION IS NOT INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT A FRAGMENTATION PROCESS IN THE TERRITORY. KISSINGER

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